

ECFS - Email Filing

<PROCEEDING>96-45

<DATE>02/08/2005

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<TEXT>I do not want to pay more for my telephone service! I urge you to reject a flat fee proposal that would change how contributions are made to the Universal Service Fund. I am concerned that this proposal could make my current service unaffordable which is an unthinkable action to the lower-middle and lower classes in economy. We take as much as we can afford and through this tax increase we will be forced to abandon any thoughts of using cellular phones at all.

Under the flat fee proposal you are considering, people who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. In other words, low-volume and primarily residential customers would bear the same universal service fund burden as a high-volume residential or business customers. This is going to economically harm the less fortunate, such as myself and is completely unfair! I understand it may sound like whining or crying for help, but i enjoy being as independent as much as possible and by passing this action you will be taking away the new found independent nature of people like me.

I use my wireless phone for safety, security and convenience. I had no choice in this service plan, as it was a gift, but i plan to continue using it until i am able to get my own cell phone and service plan. Until that day arrives I must use this phone or nothing at all. This new tax increase will make it unaffordable for me to keep in touch with the people who matter most and being a senior in high school, soon to be college student, i need an affordable, easy to use plan such as this. Please don't up the tax rate and price for all of the underprivileged people of America. I don't want to lose these benefits so that big businesses can pay less than their fair share. I humbly urge you to reject the proposal to move the USF collection system to a flat-fee. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Keep the USF Fair!

Sincerely,

Vanessa Elkins
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